

Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Financial systems and Financial Markets
Course Code	27344
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	ECON-09/B
Language	English
Degree Course	Bachelor in Economics and Management
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	Prof. Per Linus Siming, PerLinus.Siming@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/40068
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	First semester
Course Year/s	3
CP	6
Teaching Hours	36
Lab Hours	-
Individual Study Hours	-
Planned Office Hours	
Contents Summary	<p>This course provides an overview of the financial system with a particular focus on the functioning of various financial markets.</p> <p>Students will acquire scientific skills for understanding and analyzing how markets are structured and the factors that drive the supply, demand, and price formation of financial assets.</p> <p>Another key topic revolves around the roles of various market actors such as investment banks, security brokers and dealers, mutual funds and hedge funds.</p>

Course Topics	<p>Market Microstructure: Students will analyze the architecture of trading venues, including order types, execution mechanisms, bid-ask spreads, and the role of liquidity.</p> <p>Supply, Demand, and Price Formation: The course investigates the fundamental economic forces that drive asset prices. Students will learn how information, investor behavior, and macroeconomic factors interact to shape supply and demand in financial markets.</p> <p>Money Markets vs. Capital Markets: A comparative study of short-term versus long-term financing instruments. The course explores the purposes, instruments, and participants in each market, highlighting their roles in the broader financial system.</p> <p>Security Brokers and Dealers: Students will examine the functions of intermediaries who facilitate trading, provide liquidity, and manage risk in financial markets.</p> <p>Mutual Funds: Structure, management, and performance evaluation of pooled investment funds accessible to retail investors.</p> <p>Hedge Funds: Strategies, risk profiles, and regulatory considerations of alternative investment funds targeting absolute returns.</p> <p>Short Squeezes: Case studies and theoretical frameworks explaining how coordinated buying pressure can force short sellers to cover positions, leading to rapid price increases.</p>
Keywords	Capital and money markets, market micro-structure, supply and demand factors, brokers and dealers, mutual and hedge funds
Recommended Prerequisites	<p>Knowledge about the importance of supply, demand and equilibrium on markets.</p> <p>Knowledge about the basic use and purpose of stocks and bonds.</p> <p>Knowledge about the concept of inflation.</p>
Propaedeutic Courses	
Teaching Format	Frontal lectures in classroom
Mandatory Attendance	Attendance is strongly recommended
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	<p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>Area: Quantitative methods for decision-making</p> <p>Mastery of basic and intermediate mathematical tools for understanding and analysing economic mechanisms using theoretical models and empirical applications</p>

	<p>Knowledge of tools for statically, dynamically and comparatively analysing data on individuals, companies and the economy</p> <p>Knowledge and understanding of descriptive statistics, the basics of probability theory and sampling methods, standard distributions and their application to economic analyses as well as linear and non-linear regression</p> <p>Knowledge of parametric estimation and hypothesis testing</p> <p>Knowledge of the computer tools required for reading and analysing economic data and models</p> <p>Knowledge of the structure of computer networks, their most important applications and security techniques as well as techniques for collecting, visualising and analysing data using suitable software</p> <p>Knowledge of international accounting systems and double-entry bookkeeping for recording and evaluating business transactions</p> <p>Understanding of annual financial statements</p> <p>Thorough knowledge of accounting data collection or management control</p> <p>Knowledge of the analysis method for estimating present values and discount factors for estimating the cost of capital and the valuation of bonds and shares</p> <p>Knowledge of the methods of medium and long-term financial forecasting and sensitivity analysis with simulation under uncertainty for risk management in the area of corporate and international finance</p> <p>Knowledge and understanding of the international financial environment, multinational risk defence techniques and competitive strategies of global banks</p> <p>Knowledge of the mechanisms underlying effective communication of quantitative topics in three languages: Italian, German and English</p>
	<p>Ability to apply knowledge and understanding</p> <p>Area: Quantitative methods for decision making</p> <p>Ability to analyse problems in (unconstrained) optimisation and mathematical interpretation of models of social and economic dynamics</p> <p>be able to formalise and solve economic problems using mathematical models and interpret the results conceptually</p> <p>be able to analyse economic data using methods of descriptive,</p>

	<p>parametric and non-parametric statistics as well as linear and non-linear regression and interpret the results</p> <p>be able to apply international accounting standards to the various contexts of corporate reality</p> <p>Know how to derive and interpret economic information from the Internet</p> <p>Know how to use computers and computer networks to analyse large amounts of data to solve complex problems and to write dissertations and articles</p> <p>Know how to use spreadsheet programmes to value fixed-interest financial instruments and shares in listed companies</p> <p>be able to analyse financial statements using financial ratios and communicate the results in accordance with international professional standards</p> <p>be able to apply the most important theories about capital, foreign exchange and commodity markets to current observational data, including international data</p> <p>Knowledge of how to set up and carry out an empirical project using econometric software and financial or economic databases</p> <p>Be able to apply techniques to evaluate the performance of financial assets and understand the pricing mechanisms of high-risk financial assets and of spot and forward interest rates</p> <p>Ability to use basic and intermediate mathematical and statistical tools to investigate the behaviour of economic agents from a theoretical and empirical perspective</p> <p>Knowledge of analysing economic data using spreadsheets or other suitable software</p> <p>knowledge of the use of computerised tools for analysing economies</p> <p>be able to communicate the results of quantitative analyses carried out according to international professional standards in three languages: Italian, German and English</p> <p>Autonomy of judgement</p> <p>identify the most important problems in complex decision-making situations</p> <p>carry out a critical analysis of the facts and situations to be addressed</p> <p>choose the most appropriate quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis</p>
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	<p>use logical reasoning to combine information and analytical methods, including modern software packages, to arrive at a solution.B38</p> <p>Learning skills analyse, critically process and integrate data, information and future experience, also using advanced software</p>
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	
Assessment	<p>The assessment is the same for both attending and non-attending students. Grades are entirely based on a final closed book written exam. Students have the possibility to sit a voluntary mid-term exam that can account for 30% of the final exam. The final exam consists of three parts: A) Shorter and longer calculation/open-ended questions on Lectures 1-10; B) Shorter and longer calculation/open-ended questions on Lectures 12-18; C) Multiple choice questions on Lectures 1-18.</p> <p>The mid-term exam is a voluntary substitute for part A. This means that the student can: (i) Take the midterm, keep the result from the mid-term, and then only answer parts B and C on the final exam; (ii) Take the midterm, discard the result from the mid-term, and then answer parts A, B, and C on the final exam. (iii) Skip the midterm and answer parts A, B, and C on the final exam.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>The exam includes both open-ended questions and multiple-choice questions. Multiple-choice answers neither require motivations nor calculations. Open answers require short explanations and/or calculations, and the marks will be awarded based on the correctness of calculations and/or how well the argumentation links to the course concepts.</p>
Required Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frederic S. Mishkin and Stanley G. Eakins: <i>Financial Markets and Institutions</i>. Pearson, 9th Global Edition. How the Wealth Was Won: Factor Shares as Market Fundamentals. Daniel L. Greenwald, Martin Lettau, and Sydney C. Ludvigson. <i>Journal of Political Economy</i> 2025 133:4, 1083-1132.
Supplementary Readings	
Further Information	

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Decent work and economic growth
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